

Amendments to the Specification

Please **replace** the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~-- This application claims the benefit of US Provisional Application No. 60/426,646, filed on November 15, 2002, entitled METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR STAGGERED STATISTICAL MULTIPLEXING, which is incorporated by reference in its entirety.~~

This application claims the benefit, under 35 U.S.C. § 365 of International Application PCT/US03/33887, filed October 27, 2003, which was published in accordance with PCT Article 21(2) on June 3, 2004 in English and which claims the benefit of United States provisional patent application No. 60/426,646, filed November 15, 2002. --